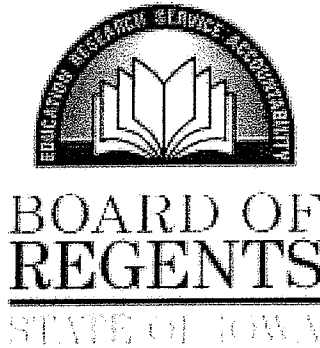


**Governing Iowa's public
universities and special schools**

University of Iowa
Iowa State University
University of Northern Iowa
Iowa School for the Deaf
Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School
Lakeside Laboratory
Quad-Cities Graduate Center
Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center
Tri-State Graduate Center



Michael G. Gartner, President, *Des Moines*
Robert N. Downer, Pro Tem, *Iowa City*
Amir I. Arbisser, M.D., *Davenport*
Mary Ellen Becker, Ph.D., *Oskaloosa*
Tom W. Bedell, *Spirit Lake*
Ruth R. Harkin, *Cumming*
Jenny L. Rokes, *Dike*
Rose A. Vasquez, *Des Moines*
Teresa A. Wahlert, *Waukee*

Gary W. Steinke, *Acting Executive Director*

November 17, 2005

Mr. Michael E. Marshall
Secretary of the Senate
Second Floor, State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Ms. Margaret A. Thomson
Chief Clerk of the House
Second Floor, State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Mr. Marshall and Ms. Thomson:

In response to HF 868, which directed the Board of Regents "to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a graduate school in western Iowa in cooperation with other public or private institutions of higher learning and to submit a report to the general assembly and the governor regarding the findings and recommendations of the study by December 15, 2005," the results of the feasibility study are hereby submitted to the General Assembly.

Under the direction of the Council of Provosts, a study team reviewed the graduate offerings provided by the Regent universities through the Tri-State Graduate Center in Sioux City and the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center in Council Bluffs and assessed unmet educational needs in western Iowa. Currently, the Regent universities provide extensive offerings at all levels, including certificate, baccalaureate, endorsement, and graduate programs through the two centers. Program offerings are available through a variety of media, including the ICN, through Iowa Public Television, guided independent study, face-to-face, and through the web.

Using the results of numerous surveys conducted by the Regent universities in western Iowa, study team concluded that the most feasible way to provide sustainable graduate programs in western Iowa is through the existing centers in Council Bluffs and Sioux City. The programs delivered through the centers can be expanded to address specific unmet needs for graduate education as those needs arise. A new center in western Iowa would be cost-prohibitive and would likely not expand the level of offerings currently available.

If there are any questions concerning this report, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Steinke

Enclosure

cc: Legislative Log
Legislative Liaisons
dg/h/aa/gws/western IA-leg.doc

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF REGENT UNIVERSITY GRADUATE OFFERINGS IN WESTERN IOWA

Actions Requested: Receive the feasibility study of Regent University graduate offerings in Western Iowa. Direct the Board Office to submit this report to the general assembly and the governor by December 15, 2005.

Executive Summary: House File 868 directed the Board of Regents "to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a graduate school in western Iowa in cooperation with other public or private institutions of higher learning and to submit a report to the general assembly and the governor regarding the findings and recommendations of the study by December 15, 2005."

Details on Study:

- ◇ In Spring 2005, the Council of Provosts constituted an inter-institutional team¹ consisting of Regent university and Board Office representatives to undertake the feasibility study.
- ◇ The objectives of the study were (1) to identify the current programmatic offerings in western Iowa; (2) to assess the extent to which current programmatic offerings in western Iowa are meeting needs for graduate education; (3) to determine if there are significant unmet needs for graduate education in western Iowa; and (4) to consider the feasibility of addressing unmet needs through the establishment of a new graduate school in western Iowa.
- ◇ The team approached this effort by reviewing existing graduate offerings provided by the Regent universities through the Tri-State Graduate Center in Sioux City and the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center in Council Bluffs and assessing unmet educational needs in western Iowa.
- ◇ Through the centers, area residents can access a variety of undergraduate and graduate degree programs provided by the Regent universities. Furthermore, the centers assist the Regent universities by providing regional promotion of programs and distribution of registration and scheduling materials and information.
- ◇ Currently, the Regent universities provide extensive offerings at all levels, including certificate, baccalaureate, endorsement, and graduate programs through the two centers. Program offerings are available through a variety of media, including the ICN, through Iowa Public Television, guided independent study, face to face, and through the web. (A list of current programmatic offerings provided by the Regent universities through the centers is included in Attachment 1.)

¹ The team participants were SUI – Chet Rzonca (Dean of Continuing Education) and John Keller (Dean of the Graduate College); ISU – Bill Tysseling (Director of Continuing Education and Communications Systems) and David Holger (Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate College) (Chair); UNI – Susan Koch (Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate College) and James Bodensteiner (Acting Dean of Continuing Education); and Board Office – Diana Gonzalez (Policy and Operations Officer).

- ☑ The Regent universities offer two Ph.D. programs, 27 master's programs, and 15 graduate certificate programs through the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center in Council Bluffs. A study conducted in FY 2002 concluded that, although enrollment in many of the programs offered at the Center was minimal, the Regent universities were meeting the need for graduation education in the Council Bluffs area that would otherwise be unmet. During 2004-05, 530 Regent students were served through the Center.
- ☑ The Regent universities offer two Ph.D. programs, 51 master's programs, and 11 graduate certificate programs through the Tri-State Graduate Center in Sioux City. While enrollment at the Tri-State Graduate Center has been marginal in some programs, the Regent universities are providing important offerings to help meet the expressed graduate education needs of northwest Iowa. During 2004-05, 342 Regent students were served through the Center.
- ◆ The team obtained background information from Representative Clarence Hoffman (sponsor of HF 868), feedback from the Office of Woodbury County Rural Economic Development, and programmatic information from the Regent universities and the Board Office.
- ◆ The Regent universities and the regional study centers regularly survey constituencies in the Sioux City and Council Bluffs areas regarding emerging needs for baccalaureate and graduate education; new programs are introduced to meet such identified needs. Using the results of these studies, the team determined that, currently, no new unmet needs for specific graduate programs in western Iowa have been identified.
- ◆ The team determined that the most feasible way to provide sustainable graduate programs in western Iowa is through the existing centers in Council Bluffs and Sioux City. While the enrollment in many programs offered by the centers is marginally sustainable, the Regent universities have made a commitment to providing these programs at the centers because they are able to achieve some resource efficiencies. The programs delivered through the centers will be expanded to address specific unmet needs for graduate education as those needs arise. A new center in western Iowa would be cost-prohibitive and would likely not expand the level of offerings currently available.
- ◆ Furthermore, program and course information about distance education opportunities provided by the Regent universities is available on the following website – <http://www.iride.org>.
- ◆ The team completed its feasibility study and presented its report to the Council of Provosts in October 2005.
- ◆ This report will be submitted to the general assembly and the governor by the required due date of December 15, 2005.

**PROGRAM OFFERINGS BY THE REGENT UNIVERSITIES AT THE
SOUTHWEST IOWA REGENTS RESOURCE CENTER (SWIRCC) AND
THE TRI-STATE GRADUATE CENTER (TSGC)¹**

GRADUATE LEVEL

PROGRAM	DEGREE	UNIVERSITY	LOCATION
Family and Consumer Science (Leadership Academy)	Ph.D.	ISU	SWIRRC
Food Service and Lodging Management	Ph.D.	ISU	SWIRRC
Agriculture	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Agronomy	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Communication Education	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Community and Regional Planning	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Computer Engineering	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Curriculum and Instructional Technology	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Early Childhood Education	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Early Childhood Special Education	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Educational Leadership	Masters	UNI	TSGC
Educational Leadership – Principalship	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Educational Technology	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Electrical Engineering	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Elementary Education	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
English as a Second Language	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Family and Consumer Sciences	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Family and Consumer Sciences (Leadership Academy)	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Fam. & Consumer Sciences with specialization in Fam. Financial Planning	Masters	ISU	TSGC
Family Financial Planning	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC
Gerontology	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Library and Information Science	Masters	SUI	SWIRRC, TSGC
Literacy	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Mechanical Engineering	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Middle Level Education	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Music Education	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Nursing	Masters	SUI	SWIRRC, TSGC
Philanthropy and Nonprofit Development	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC, TSGC
Public Administration	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Public Health	Masters	SUI	SWIRRC
School Library Media Studies	Masters	UNI	TSGC
School Mathematics	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC

PROGRAM	DEGREE	UNIVERSITY	LOCATION
Science Education	Masters	UNI	SWIRRC
Social Work	Masters	SUI	TSGC
Systems Engineering	Masters	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Advanced Medical Nutrition Therapy	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC
Advanced Studies – Superintendency	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Advanced Studies Certificate in the Superintendency	Certificate	UNI	SWIRRC
Dietetics Communication and Counseling	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC
Dietetics Management	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC
Environmental Health	Certificate	UNI	SWIRRC
Family Financial Planning	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Financial Counselor Certification	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC
Gerontology	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Information Assurance	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Power Systems Engineering	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Public Health	Certificate	SUI	SWIRRC, TSGC
Public Management	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC, TSGC
Community College Certification	Endorsement	UNI	SWIRRC
Driver Education	Endorsement	UNI	SWIRRC
Superintendency Endorsement Program	Endorsement	UNI	TSGC

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

PROGRAM	DEGREE	UNIVERSITY	LOCATION
Bachelor of Liberal Studies	Baccalaureate	ISU, SUI, UNI	SWIRRC
Criminology	Certificate	UNI	SWIRRC
Environmental Health	Certificate	UNI	SWIRRC
Financial Counselor Certification	Certificate	ISU	SWIRRC

¹Some programs may have a residency requirement.

25 35 Sec. 34. STUDIES.

26 1 1. The state board of regents shall conduct a study to
26 2 determine the feasibility of establishing a graduate school in
26 3 western Iowa in cooperation with other public or private
26 4 institutions of higher learning. By December 15, 2005, the
26 5 board shall submit a report to the general assembly and the
26 6 governor regarding the findings and recommendations of the
26 7 study.

26 8 2. The state board of regents shall conduct a study
26 9 relating to cost-effective methods of recognizing the efforts
26 10 of faculty to achieve commercialization. By December 15,
26 11 2005, the board shall submit a report to the general assembly
26 12 and the governor regarding the findings and recommendations of
26 13 the study.



DEPARTMENT OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA

Robert B. Marqusee, Director, 7th & Douglas Streets, Sioux City, IA 51101

(Work) 712.279.6609 (Cell) 712.389.2049 (Fax) 712.279.6530

rmarqusee@sioux-city.org

Woodbury County Presentation

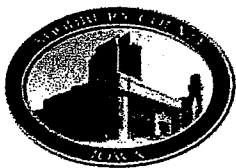
**Review of State of Iowa, Board of Regents Feasibility Study Pursuant to
House File 868 (Grow Iowa Values Fund, Div. VII, Sec. 34)**

State of Iowa Legislative Oversight Committee

January 18, 2005

10:00 a.m.

**State Capital, Legislative Dining Room
Des Moines, Iowa**



DEPARTMENT OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA

Robert B. Marqusee, Director, 7th & Douglas Streets, Sioux City, IA 51101

(Work) 712.279.6609 (Cell) 712.389.2049 (Fax) 712.279.6530

rmarqusee@sioux-city.org

Presentation Talking Points & Reference Documentation

Board of Regents did not fulfill its obligations under House File 868, as follows:

1. Basic Obligation to Do Feasibility Study was not Pursued by Regents:
 - a. Subject of Feasibility Study
 - i. Statute: Feasibility of Establishing Graduate School
 - ii. Regents: Did not do a feasibility study, rather their work is a report on Offerings. No data provided by Regents.
 - b. Collaboration Requirements
 - i. Statute: "... in cooperation with other public & private institutions"
 - ii. Regents: Never consulted with local public or private institutions. Never contacted major constituents of, or traveled to, Woodbury County. [See: LTR, 12/1/05, Chamber of Commerce]
 - c. Economic Development Focus
 - i. Statute: Grow Iowa Values Fund Legislation – House File 868 is focused on economic development. Study to consider economic development factors in establishing a graduate school.
 - ii. Regents: No economic development data for feasibility of establishing a graduate school was investigated or provided (i.e., no cost-benefit or financial analysis). No demographic information is provided in Regents' report.
 - iii. General: Regents' report provides no roadmap for Western Iowa.
2. Regents' Stated Basis for Report is Misleading & Incomplete:
 - a. Regents: Sole reliance on input from Woodbury County Rural Economic Development, Rep. Clarence Hoffman, & programmatic information based upon periodic surveys.
 - b. Misleading & Incomplete Because:
 - i. Woodbury never received written response to communications and was verbally asked by Regents to undertake its own unfunded study to provide results within a one-week of request. Woodbury offered to conduct a meeting with Regents with all constituents. [LTR, 10/4/05, Woodbury County]
 - ii. Regents merely talked with Rep. Clarence Hoffman for approximately 3 minutes on one occasion – thus, providing little to no input whatsoever.
 - iii. No contact with local colleges, businesses, or industries.
 - iv. Woodbury was permitted to talk with Regents AFTER their report was completed
3. Support for Establishment of a Graduate School in Western Iowa
 - a. Initial Offer by Woodbury County [LTR, 8/23/05, Board of Supervisors Resolution]
 - b. Support from Regional County Boards of Supervisors [LTRS, 9/6/05, 9/28/05]
 - c. Regional Business, Industry, & Major Health Facilities Support [LTR, 9/14/05]
4. Need for Establishment of Graduate School in Woodbury County, Iowa
 - a. Partial Suggested List of Needs in Woodbury County is Provided in Attached Letters
 - b. Mere Distance Learning Offerings does not have an economic development impact.
5. Request for a Real Feasibility Study to be Undertaken Pursuant to Legislation
 - a. Mandate a Roadmap for Establishing a Graduate School in Western Iowa

December 1, 2005

The Honorable Ron Wieck
Iowa State Senator
4362 Old Lakeport Road
Sioux City, IA 51106

Dear Senator Wieck:

Please allow me to add my voice to those who have already registered their dissatisfaction concerning the Board of Regents execution of the legislative mandates of House File 868 regarding the completion of a feasibility study related to the establishment of a graduate school in western Iowa.

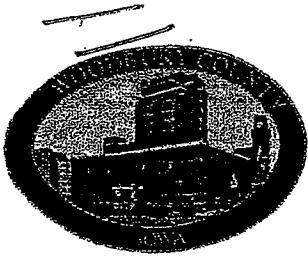
Along with my professional economic development colleagues representing Woodbury County, I share the belief that the Board of Regents failed to conduct a good faith feasibility study as required by this legislation. While it was never our expectation to see the immediate creation of a regent affiliated graduate school in western Iowa, it was our reasonable expectation that a legitimate feasibility study would be performed.

To my knowledge, no representative of the regents traveled to western Iowa for the purpose of completing this study. Moreover, as you know, this legislation expressly states that the feasibility study should incorporate other schools, "*in cooperation with other public or private institutions of higher learning.*" With this in mind, it is worth noting that the Presidents of Briar Cliff University, Morningside College, Western Iowa Tech Community College, and the Tri-State Graduate Center in Sioux City were never consulted. In light of this, I seriously doubt whether other colleges and universities throughout western Iowa were ever contacted. Furthermore, I am not aware of any business leader or local political official who was questioned for purposes of completing research related to this feasibility study.

On behalf of the many constituencies I represent in my capacity with the Chamber of Commerce and The Siouxland Initiative, I am respectfully requesting your assistance in exploring the reasons for the failure of this feasibility study to comply with said legislation.

Sincerely,

Debi Durham
President



OFFICE OF
Woodbury County Rural Economic Development

SEVENTH AND DOUGLAS STREETS - SIOUX CITY, IA 51101

Peggy Napier • pnapier@sioux-city.org
Rob Marqusee • Director • rmarqusee@sioux-city.org • rob@marqusee.com
Telephone (712) 279-6609
Fax (712) 279-6468

October 4, 2005

Michael Gartner
100 Market Street #515
Des Moines, IA 50309

**Re: Grow Iowa Values Fund - Feasibility Study for Western Iowa Graduate University
Request to Be Placed Agenda Board of Regents Meeting – November 3**

Dear Mr. Gartner:


It is believed that the "feasibility study" to be conducted by the Board of Regents, related to the establishment of a graduate school in Western Iowa, is about to be completed. As of this date, there have been no public meetings, or direct investigation, conducted in the Woodbury County region.

In spite of numerous written communications in the past providing regional high-level support for this institution in Woodbury County, I have not received response as to the process by which the study is conducted or on what basis (i.e., guidelines/standards) the final recommendations will be made. Clearly, we do not have funding or qualifications to undertake our own "needs assessment". We rely on the Board of Regents to undertake a thorough study of need in this part of Iowa.

It is clear to citizens in this area that we need graduate resources in the disciplines of business-entrepreneurship and biotech research and development. Sioux City was designated as a "Great Place"; it's proposal including the establishment of graduate programs in architecture and entrepreneurship.

I would be more than happy to set up a meeting with the presidents of regional colleges in order to facilitate your study in the Woodbury County area. Furthermore, I would appreciate being placed on your agenda on November 3, 2005

Sincerely,



Robert B. Marqusee

cc: Governors Office, Regional Legislators, Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, City of Sioux City

**JOINT PLANNING EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH
A COLLEGE CAMPUS IN SOUTH SIOUX CITY:
WAYNE STATE COLLEGE AND NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Wayne State College (WSC), a regional state college, and Northeast Community College (NECC), a public community college, are joining forces to establish a college campus in South Sioux City. South Sioux City is located in the northeast corner of Nebraska and is considered part of Siouxland, a tri-state (Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota) metropolitan area with one of the strongest business climates in the nation. South Sioux City lies within the service areas of both WSC and NECC, but neither college has a strong presence within the community, offering a modest number of courses and services.

Background Information

Brief Description of Partner Colleges

WSC is a regional, public college and is part of a three-school state college system geographically positioned to serve rural Nebraska. The College is primarily an undergraduate institution offering a comprehensive curriculum with equal emphasis on the arts and sciences, business and teacher education. Graduate programs are offered at the master's level in Education and Business Administration and at the Education Specialist level in Education. During fall of 2003, WSC served 3,317 students.

NECC is one of six Nebraska public community colleges. Northeast awards a wide range of short-term certificates, one-year diplomas, and two-year associate degrees designed to enable students to enter the job market upon completion of their programs. General academic transfer programs are also offered and designed so students will complete the first two years of an undergraduate curriculum and successfully transfer to four-year colleges and universities. In addition, adult education programs are available to assist individuals in upgrading their present job skills, training for new careers, developing or enhancing recreational and cultural interests, preparing for high school completion tests, improving basic education skills, and earning college credits. During 2003-04, NECC served 7,379 credit and 18,671 non-credit students.

South Sioux City Demographics and Education

South Sioux City, located in Dakota County, is the second largest city in northeastern Nebraska with a population of 11,925. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, it experienced a 1990-2003 population gain of 24.3 percent (well over the national average of 13.8 percent). By comparison, Lincoln grew at a rate of 22.7 percent and Omaha only 11.3 percent, over the same time period. The Greater Siouxland area has a population base of 136,714. Rapid population growth is projected to continue in Dakota County as well as all other counties that comprise the Tri-State Siouxland area through 2010 and beyond – strong evidence to support the feasibility of a public college campus in South Sioux City.

South Sioux City is served by six public elementary schools and one private elementary school, one middle/junior high school, and one senior high school. Fifty-two percent of the students enrolled in the South Sioux City Public Schools are from an ethnic minority background. Discussions have taken place between the colleges and the South Sioux City public schools that would use the campus to intensify the cooperation among the three educational institutions to enhance educational experiences of public school students, college students majoring in education, and graduate students. In the three Siouxland counties there are six high schools that produced 1,300 high school graduates in 2002. The higher education needs of the area are served primarily by two private four-year colleges in Iowa, a private nursing college in Iowa, a community college in Iowa, and the Sioux City Tri-State Graduate Center (offering degree programs from universities in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota). Presently, there are no public four-year college campuses in the Siouxland area. The cost of higher education in the Siouxland area may be prohibitive for many individuals, particularly for low-income, first-generation, and minority students. Providing quality, affordable higher education in the region will boost the skills of the local workforce, while attracting students from nearby states—helping to reverse the “brain drain” being experienced by Nebraska. At present only 12.7 percent of South Sioux City’s adult population, over the age of 25, hold a Bachelor’s degree or higher (well below the national average of 24.4 percent). Lincoln compares at 33.3 percent and Omaha at 30.8 percent.

By comparison to other towns in Nebraska, it would appear that South Sioux City is underserved, from a public higher education perspective. While preliminary data support the need for more programs and services in South Sioux City, extensive planning is still needed.

Overview of the South Sioux City Campus

Wayne State College and Northeast Community College have been working with city officials of South Sioux City in developing a vision for higher education in the community. The South Sioux City community has been very supportive and will donate fifty-five acres of land (in an accessible location) to this effort. The South Sioux City Campus is proposed to be a single, multi-purpose building that would provide academic programs, customized training, continuing education, and front-line services to students while remaining dependent on WSC and NECC’s main campuses for additional administrative support. As an urban commuter campus, it is recommended that the campus begin in modern facilities specifically designed for higher education purposes and student convenience. This is proposed to occur initially in one large building to be constructed by 2007 or 2008 depending on available resources.

Live instruction would be offered by a combination of full-time and part-time instructors that would teach exclusively in South Sioux City and by instructors commuting from Wayne and Norfolk on a weekly schedule. In other cases, dedicated distance-learning classrooms in this new facility could be used to supplement instruction by sharing courses between campuses.

Planning Needed for a Successful Joint Higher Education Partnership in South Sioux City

While WSC and NECC have already dedicated considerable resources towards performing preliminary research and planning, several additional steps are needed to insure a successful joint higher education partnership between WSC and NECC. Elements would include a detailed needs analysis of programs and facilities, infrastructure analysis, joint meetings of the administrative staff of WSC and NECC, and visits to model campuses that have successful joint partnerships.

Joint Program Analysis

Northeast Community College conducted a preliminary educational needs survey of Dixon, Dakota, and Thurston counties in Nebraska in the fall of 2003. The results of the survey revealed interest in academic transfer, business, health care, and vocational/technical programs. Further assessment of higher education needs and employer training needs in the Siouxland area is necessary. A consultant will be hired to conduct an educational needs analysis of individuals and businesses/organizations in Dakota, Dixon, and Thurston counties in Nebraska; Union County in South Dakota, and Plymouth and Woodbury counties in Iowa.

Joint Facilities Analysis

WSC and NECC would collaborate on a facility plan for the new campus. Using the information from the educational needs analysis, the building would be designed to provide the space needed to deliver the programs most needed by the area. Architects would work with the colleges in making a preliminary design to be used in various funding and approval proposals.

Infrastructure Planning

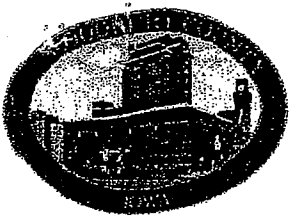
Planning for the campus is also needed to ensure that the facility has the appropriate, equipment, computer wiring, and other infrastructure to support college-level and vocational programs. For example, the building will need an interactive video capability to allow courses to be taught simultaneously to and from Sioux City, Norfolk, Wayne, and possibly other locations. A computer lab is necessary and advice will be needed on whether to go with fiber optic and/or wireless connections for educational and administrative use.

Joint Meetings Between WSC and NECC/Visits to Model Campuses

Numerous meetings between key administrative staff of WSC and NECC will need to occur. These meetings would ideally occur at a site away from the campuses to allow

college officials the opportunity to focus their attention on the planning necessary for the development of a joint South Sioux City campus. Effective planning is needed between the presidents, the vice presidents, the deans, and directors to coordinate programming and services and to avoid duplication.

As there are no appropriate models of such a collaborative effort in Nebraska, it would be extremely beneficial for WSC and NECC administrators and faculty members to visit two to three campuses that have successful joint partnerships between a four-year college and a community college. Information about what works and what doesn't work would be brought back to college officials and incorporated into the overall South Sioux City Campus plan.



Woodbury County Board of Supervisors

Courthouse • Room 104

620 Douglas Street • Sioux City, Iowa 51101

Telephone (712) 279-6525 • Fax (712) 279-6577

MEMBERS

August 23, 2005

BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
KAREN JAMES

G.R. (BOB) BATCHELLER
SIOUX CITY

GEORGE W. BOYKIN
SIOUX CITY

LARRY D. CLAUSEN
SIOUX CITY

MARK MONSON
SERGEANT BLUFF

DOUGLAS L. WALISH
SIOUX CITY

Michael Gartner
Board of Regents, State of Iowa
5315 Waterbury Road
Des Moines, IA 50312

Re: Woodbury County Invitation to Seat "Western Iowa University Graduate School"
Grow Iowa Values Fund - Division VII, Section 34

Dear Mr. Gartner;

As evidenced by the signatories attached below, we in Woodbury County are excited by the prospect that our county may be the home of a new graduate school governed by the Board of Regents. Overwhelming community collaboration, academic need, financial resources, and positive economic development impacts all point to Woodbury County as the preferred site for this new educational center.

Our two private institutions of higher learning, (Morningside College and Briar Cliff University), Western Iowa Tech Community College, the Tri-State Graduate Center, and governing officials have joined private local business and industry in support of this invitation. Sioux City, the county seat, is the 4th largest city in the State of Iowa, yet its citizens (and citizens of the region) are presently without direct access to a regents governed university.

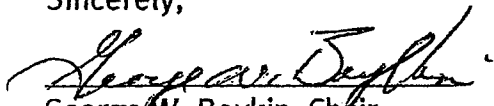
The Woodbury County Board of Supervisors hereby makes the following commitments in order to secure it as the home of the new educational facility:

1. Woodbury County will work to acquire all real property for present and planned future needs of the university;
2. Woodbury County will exercise its bonding capacity (i.e., it presently has 100% bonding capacity) to help defray costs associated with its construction;
3. Woodbury County will work closely with the Iowa Department of Transportation to insure the most convenient access to the new facilities;
4. Woodbury County will continue to expand our existing public-private partnerships to insure that graduates have employment opportunities locally and throughout the state;
5. Woodbury County will provide incentives for resulting entrepreneur-driven commercialization of university-based research and innovation; and
6. Woodbury County will provide other incentives as determined (e.g., staff placement and other needs of the university system).

The proposed expansion of the regents system to Woodbury County would promote significant economic development for the region and for the State of Iowa. The development would bolster airline traffic into the region through the Sioux-Gateway Airport, would facilitate the completion of Highway 20 as a four-lane corridor through Iowa, and would provide much needed resources to increase industry and business in the region. This is the right project, at the right time, for Woodbury County and the State of Iowa.

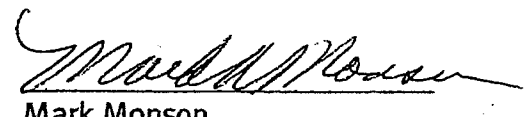
The commitments extended by the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors, as set forth in this letter, have been adopted by formal "Resolution of the Board" on August 23, 2005.

Sincerely,


George W. Boykin, Chair
Woodbury County Board of Supervisors

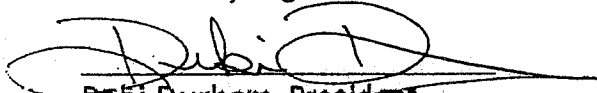

Larry D. Clausen
Woodbury County Board of Supervisors

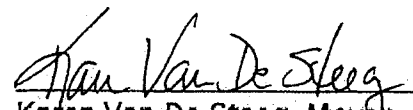

G.R. (Bob) Batcheller
Woodbury County Board of Supervisors

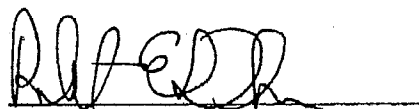

Mark Monson
Woodbury County Board of Supervisors

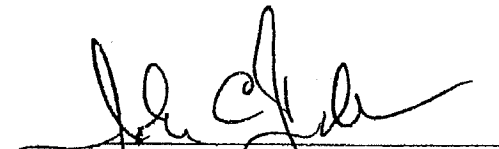

Doug L. Walsh
Woodbury County Board of Supervisors

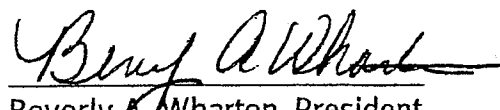
Community Signatories:

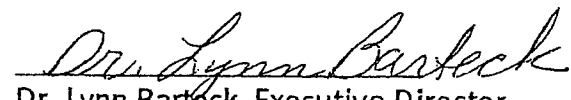

Debi Durham, President
Siouxland Chamber of Commerce/
The Siouxland Initiative

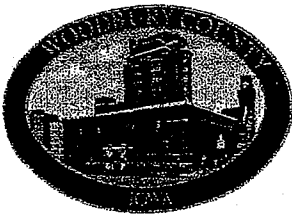

Karen Van De Steeg, Mayor
City of Sioux City, Iowa


Dr. Robert E. Dunker, President
Western Iowa Tech Community College


John C. Reinders, President
Morningside College


Beverly A. Wharton, President
Briar Cliff University


Dr. Lynn Barteck, Executive Director
Tri-State Graduate Center



OFFICE OF

Woodbury County Rural Economic Development

SEVENTH AND DOUGLAS STREETS - SIOUX CITY, IA 51101

Peggy Napier • pnapier@sioux-city.org
Rob Marqusee • Director • rmarqusee@sioux-city.org • rob@marqusee.com
Telephone (712) 279-6609
Fax (712) 279-6468

September 6, 2005

Board of Regents, State of Iowa
ATTN: Gary Steinke
11260 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322

Re: Regional Support for Woodbury County Invitation to Seat Regents University


Dear Board of Regents:

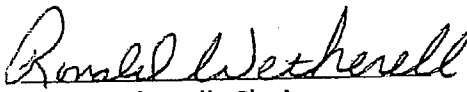
On August 23, 2005, the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors adopted, by resolution, a letter of invitation to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, to seat the proposed Western Iowa University Graduate School in Woodbury County, pursuant to the Grow Iowa Values Fund - Division VII, Section 34.

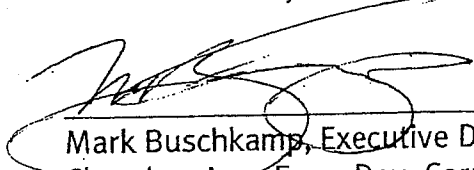
There is strong regional support for Woodbury County's action. The benefits of a brick and mortar facility of this kind in northwest Iowa would be immeasurable to both the region and the State of Iowa.


Cherokee County and Plymouth County hereby lend its support to the Woodbury County letter of invitation. We want to impress upon the Board of Regents the importance of the establishment of a regents governed university. The Woodbury County Board of Supervisors has committed its resources to its completion for the benefit of the entire region.

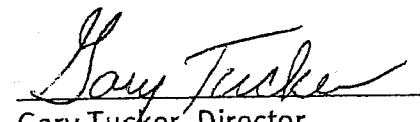
Sincerely,


Robert B. Marqusee


Ron Wetherell, Chair
Cherokee County Board of Supervisors


Mark Buschkamp, Executive Director
Cherokee Area Econ. Dev. Corp.


C. Gordon Green, Chair
Plymouth County Board of Supervisors


Gary Tucker, Director
Plymouth County Dept. Econ. Dev.



OFFICE OF
Woodbury County Rural Economic Development

SEVENTH AND DOUGLAS STREETS - SIOUX CITY, IA 51101

Peggy Napier • pnapier@sioux-city.org
Rob Marqusee • Director • rmarqusee@sioux-city.org • rob@marqusee.com
Telephone (712) 279-6609
Fax (712) 279-6468

September 28, 2005

Board of Regents, State of Iowa
ATTN: Gary Steinke
11260 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322

Re: Regional Support for Woodbury County Invitation to Seat Regents University

Dear Board of Regents:

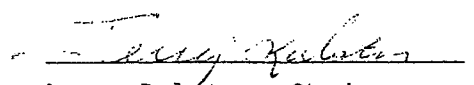
On August 23, 2005, the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors adopted, by resolution, a letter of invitation to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, to seat the proposed Western Iowa University Graduate School in Woodbury County, pursuant to the Grow Iowa Values Fund - Division VII, Section 34.

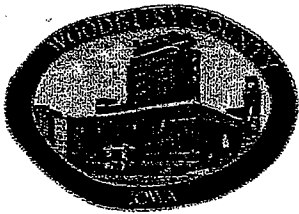
There is strong regional support for Woodbury County's action. The benefits of a brick and mortar facility of this kind in northwest Iowa would be immeasurable to both the region and the State of Iowa.

Ida County hereby lend its support to the Woodbury County letter of invitation. We want to impress upon the Board of Regents the importance of the establishment of a regents governed university. The Woodbury County Board of Supervisors has committed its resources to its completion for the benefit of the entire region. Cherokee County and Plymouth County have already gave their written consent on an earlier date.

Sincerely,


Robert B. Marqusee


Jerry Ralston, Chairman
Ida County Board of Supervisors



OFFICE OF

Woodbury County Rural Economic Development

SEVENTH AND DOUGLAS STREETS - SIOUX CITY, IA 51101

Peggy Napier • pnapier@sioux-city.org

Rob Marqusee • Director • rmarqusee@sioux-city.org • rob@marqusee.com

Telephone (712) 279-6609

Fax (712) 279-6468

September 14, 2005

Board of Regents, State of Iowa
ATTN: Gary Steinke
11260 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale, IA 50322

Re: Business Support & Need for Western Iowa University in Woodbury County

Dear Board of Regents:

On August 23, 2005, the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors adopted, by resolution, a letter of invitation to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, to seat the proposed Western Iowa University Graduate School in Woodbury County.

Attached please find the Petition of Business Support signed by business leaders in support of Woodbury County's specific invitation. The Petition is signed by presidents of regional hospitals, giant food processing firms, representatives of small business, doctors, lawyers, bankers, and by leaders of every sector in the Woodbury County region. The process of obtaining additional signatures will be ongoing and forwarded to you intermittently throughout your deliberative process.

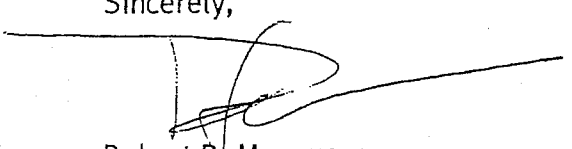
There is overwhelming need for a brick and mortar facility in Woodbury County:

- The financial return to the state and region would far exceed the investment.
- The economic development benefits would insure long-term growth of the region; would facilitate added airline service and four-lane completion of Highway 20.
- Would help Iowa retain its young people and motivate them to stay in an area where they have received their undergraduate degree.
- Provide local, regional, and state industries with higher quality employees.
- Woodbury County is a strategically suited location to take advantage of existing infrastructure, geographic advantage, and undergraduate educational facilities.

The focus of the new graduate school could involve bio-tech and/or entrepreneur curriculum and research, with transference of system-wide faculty innovation to commercialization. Of course the regents would make a determination of any other or additional need within the State of Iowa system.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 712.389.2049.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Marqusee

PETITION OF BUSINESS SUPPORT
FOR
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN IOWA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

TO BOARD OF REGENTS, STATE OF IOWA:

The following individuals and businesses from the Siouxland Area (including Woodbury County) hereby lend their support to place a Western Iowa University Graduate School in Woodbury County, Iowa, as proposed by the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors Resolution adopted on August 23, 2005:

Name & Title	Business Name/Email	Business Address/Phone	Date
Barbara Benson	Calys Mfg	1005 4th St SC	9/13/05
Ray [Signature]	BPI	891 Two Rivers RD	
Lane Daniel [Signature]	CITY OF SGT BLUFF	P.O. Box 336 SGT BLUFF, IA	9-13-05
[Signature]	Sioux City Forward AM3@IATU.COM	801 DIVISION ST. 712-252-4181	9/13/05
Tom Everett president	thinkTANK business dev. tomeverett@ableone.net	712-255-4734	9/13/05
Tracy Everett	thinkTANK tracyeverett@ableone.net	PO BOX 3631 SIOUX CITY IA 51102	9/13/05
Mike Everett VP	Travel Memories	Box 400 SSC 494-5451	9/18/05
Tim Kelley	Diamond Vogel	819 W. 7th St. Sioux City	9/13/05
Linda Paulsen	Diamond Vogel	819 W 7th S.C.	9/13/05
Shirley Schuel	Diamond Vogel	819 W 7th SC	9/13/05
Lillian Carlson	Diamond Vogel	819 W. 7th St.	9/13/05

PETITION OF BUSINESS SUPPORT
FOR
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN IOWA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

TO BOARD OF REGENTS, STATE OF IOWA:

The following individuals and businesses from the Siouxland Area (including Woodbury County) hereby lend their support to place a Western Iowa University Graduate School in Woodbury County, Iowa, as proposed by the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors Resolution adopted on August 23, 2005:

Name & Title	Business Name/Email	Business Address/Phone	Date
Marni S. Berente	M. Berente & Berente Lawyers Iowa, Inc.	712 452 0020	9/13/05
J. M. Alun	Belita NA	712-943-1688	9/13/05
Lori Adams	IWD, lori.adams@iwd.state.iowa.us	712 233 9030	9-13-05
Todd Lee	Iowa Workforce Todd.lee@iwd.state.iowa.us	712-233-9030	9-13-05
Jim Warr	AmericaWillNet.net	712-233-9030	9-13-05
Chris Jensen	Western Iowa Tech	712-277-8733	9-13-05
Steve Frange	U.S. Bank	712-277-0611	9/13/05
Chris G.	Guarantee Roofing	712-277-3581	9/13/05
Mark P.	Palmer County	712-258-5543	9-13-05
A. A. L.	Central Bank	712 293 2265	9/13/05
Denise Schae	Siouxland Economic Development Corp.	712 2996286	9-13-05
Jim Pelroy	Herchman Lee	665 2324777	9-13-05

PETITION OF BUSINESS SUPPORT
FOR
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN IOWA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

TO BOARD OF REGENTS, STATE OF IOWA:

The following individuals and businesses from the Siouxland Area (including Woodbury County) hereby lend their support to place a Western Iowa University Graduate School in Woodbury County, Iowa, as proposed by the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors Resolution adopted on August 23, 2005:

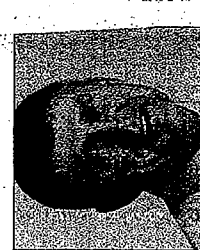
Name & Title	Business Name/Email	Business Address/Phone	Date
<i>Jan O'Halloran</i>	<i>Supt SCCSD</i>	<i>1221 Pierce St / SC</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>
<i>Richard B Wagner</i>	<i>Dentist</i>	<i>528 Pelletier</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>
<i>Barbara J. Wagner</i>		<i>528 Pelletier</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>
<i>L. M. L.</i>	<i>USCEDC</i>	<i>P.O. Box 1516</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>
<i>Kim Surr</i>	<i>Kim Surr at Surr</i>	<i>P.O. Box 2820 51106</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>
<i>Kelly Hol</i>	<i>#18 Whitetail Pl</i>	<i>Bakery Den</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>
<i>Elizabeth D. Jacobson</i>	<i>Jacobson Dist.</i>	<i>2501 Expedition Ct 51104</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>
<i>Christine K. Koushki</i>	<i>Mercy</i>	<i>801 5th St.</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>
<i>Wendy Kevener</i>	<i>Cherons to the Danston Law Firm</i>	<i>501 Pierce St.</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>
<i>Charles E. Wolfe</i>	<i>Office Systems Co</i>	<i>308 Iowa St.</i>	<i>9-13-05</i>
<i>Monty J. Dufort</i>	<i>City of SC</i>	<i>City Hall at 200 St</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>
<i>John C.</i>	<i>Innovative Benefits</i>	<i>Sioux City</i>	<i>9/13/05</i>

Iowa should use universities to grow

North Carolina used to be a lot like Iowa. It depended on agriculture (hogs and tobacco) and low-wage manufacturing, and it happened to have some pretty good universities.

Then the state transformed itself. It established the Research Triangle, linking the resources of three universities — North Carolina, North Carolina State and Duke — using their research capabilities as a lure to high-tech companies. The concept was developed in the 1950s and didn't start paying off until about a decade later, but now North Carolina is among the real economic success stories among the states.

Which is something Iowa can't say. From time to time, there have been suggestions that Iowa should try to emulate North Carolina. There have even been some halfhearted efforts in that direction. The state universities have established business incubators. There



RICHARD DOAK

was an unsuccessful bid to make the University of Iowa a center of laser technology and a serious, but underfunded effort to make Iowa State a center of plant biotechnology.

But Iowa has never embraced wholeheartedly the notion of using our universities as engines of growth, nor has the state even come close to investing the kinds of resources it would take to make it work.

Maybe it's not too late. The deans of the two

engineering colleges in Iowa have recently begun talking up the concept of an Iowa Technology Quadrangle (ITQ). The four corners of the quadrangle would be Ames, Des Moines, Iowa City and Cedar Rapids, encompassing Iowa State University, the University of Iowa and the state's two largest cities.

Mark Kushner of ISU and P. Barry Butler of the U of I argue that the concept has the potential to reshape Iowa's economy.

"Anchored by two world-class universities, ITQ would attract high-tech enterprises, reverse the brain drain and make Iowa a destination for the highly educated," wrote Kushner in a description of the quadrangle. And, he said, the benefits would be felt far beyond the borders of the quadrangle.

In an interview, Kushner said Austin, Texas is a recent example of the possibilities. Austin was a "sleepy little town," home to the University of Texas, that was

transformed into a major center of microtechnology. When the U.S. semiconductor industry was struggling against the overseas competition in the 1980s and looking for a way to turn things around, Kushner said, Austin, the state of Texas and the university stepped up with major research investments and partnerships with manufacturers.

Austin essentially had no microtech industry 20 years ago. Now, he said, it is the dominant industry in the area, employing some 125,000 people and accounting for two-thirds of the region's economic growth.

Kushner said American companies can't match the low labor costs of their overseas rivals, so the only way to compete is to lead in innovation, and the way to do that is with constant research. Hence the advantage of partnerships between industry and research universities. "The key word is innovation," he said. Also,

"proximity is meaningful." In other words, it makes sense for the companies to have operations near where the research is occurring.

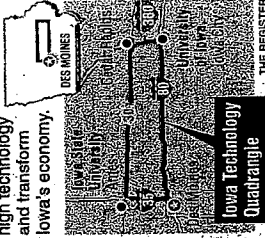
Kushner and Butler are still in the talking stage, with no detailed blueprint for the ITQ. Among the things that need to happen before the concept can go further, Kushner said, is for Iowans to become friendly to the idea and for the state to become less rigid about insisting on intellectual property rights from university research.

There's no price tag on the idea yet, but it obviously would call for significant investments in the two colleges of engineering and other units within the universities. That is just as obviously a problem in a state that has just come out of an era of significant cuts in support of the universities.

This has been a chronic source of stagnation in Iowa — knowing that big investments in the universities would be a pathway to growth, but lacking either the wherewithal or

Iowa technology plan

An Iowa Technology Quadrangle, as envisioned by the University of Iowa, would foster public-private partnerships in high technology and transform Iowa's economy.



the will to make them. Dean Kushner has a question for Iowans on that point: "Do the thought experiment," he said. "Ask ourselves, can we stay on the same path and improve our economy by two?"

RICHARD DOAK is senior editorial columnist. He can be reached at (515) 284-8542 or ddoak@dmreg.com.